

## Commission News

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## MSWCC kicks into high gear for annual meeting

JACKSON — The conference room, offices and hallways at the MSWCC headquarters are filled with auction items, posters, banners, beads and even a King's crown — literally almost everything required for the 74th Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting, which takes place Jan. 23-24, 2019, at the Hilton-Jackson.

Commission staffers have been working hard to ensure a terrific experience for those attending this year's meeting, which has a Mardi Gras theme.

Those attending are welcome to dress for a N'awleans-style gala at the live auction on Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Speakers at this year's conference include Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson,



Field Rep Robin Tisdale assembles attendee packets for the meeting.



Lee Smith sorts through signs for the annual meeting.

who will speak about GenuineMS, MS Supreme Court Justice James T. Kitchens, who will conduct the swearing-in ceremony for Commissioners; and Bobby Car-

son Jr., state director of the Farm Services Administration

The conference features sessions on conservation education including presentations on Farm Bill programs, Watershed Dam Safety, Chronic Wasting Disease and Black Bears.

District Success stories will be presented during the opening session on Wednesday, and awards will be presented at the President's Luncheon on Wednesday and during the closing banquet on Thursday evening.

Speakers at the General Session on Thursday, Jan. 24, include representatives from the NACD, NRCS, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

The keynote speaker at the closing banquet will be Stephanie Payne, an inspirational speaker and life coach.



Field Reps Jeff Wilson, standing, and Lance Middleton load in auction items.



MSWCC Field Rep Lauren Wilson organizes name tags for the 2019 MACD Annual Meeting.

PHOTOS BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC

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### Raymond Joyner retires, receives service pin

Raymond Joyner, retiring District Conservationist for Warren and Yazoo counties, at left, receives his service pin from Delta Area Conservationist Kevin Kennedy. Joyner started his career with SCS/NRCS in October 1983, working in the Vicksburg office as a Soil Conservation Technician. He moved to the Port Gibson office, where he served for many years as the District Conservationist before returning back home to Vicksburg and working until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2018.

### Ellen Davis retires

Yazoo County District Clerk Ellen Davis retired Dec. 31, 2018, after 29 years of service.

Photo at right is from the Delta Area Summer Meeting, where Ellen received the Delta District Clerk of the Year Award from MACD President Pete Hunter.



## MISSISSIPPI ENVIROTHON

### TRAINING SESSIONS

#### DELTA

2/12/2019—Greenwood NRCS Area Office, Greenwood

#### SOUTH

2/15/2019 — Grand Bay NERR, Moss Point

#### NORTH

2/19/2019 — The Gale Center, 2601 Elm St., Herndon

#### CENTRAL

2/27/2019 — Central MS Research and Extension Center, 1320 Seven Springs Drive, Raymond

## 2019 MACD Annual Meeting

*Laissez le  
bon temps rouler!*

JANUARY 23-24, 2019  
THE HILTON-JACKSON  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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